

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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1-39. (Cancelled)

40. (Currently Amended) A method of establishing a communications call, including:

selecting a B party using an interactive device connected to a public network;
accessing called address data for said B party from a public directory of said public network in response to selecting said B party;
sending said called address data for said B party and calling address data for an A party to a connection module of said public network; and
establishing a call between said A and B parties over said public network using said connection module and said called and calling address data.

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41. (Original) A method of establishing a communications call, including:

selecting a B party using an interactive device connected to a public network;
searching for called address data for said B party using said interactive device and a search module of said public network and a database of said public network including called address data;
sending said called address data for said B party and calling address data for an A party to a connection module of said public network; and
establishing a call between said A and B parties over said public network using said connection module and said called and calling address data.

42. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein said interactive device is a computer and/or telephony device including a visual display.

43. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said interactive device is associated with said A party.

44. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein said interactive device is a communications terminal for said call.

45. (Currently Amended) A method of originating a communications call, including:
selecting a B party using an interactive device connected to a public network; and
sending, in response to selection of said B party, selected party data corresponding to said B party to said public network;
whereby a connection module of said public network accesses called address data for said B party in a public directory on the basis of said selected party data to establish a call between an A party and said B party.

46. (Currently Amended) A method of originating a communications call, including:
selecting a B party using an interactive device connected to a public network;
sending, in response to selection of said B party, selected party data corresponding to said B party to said public network;
obtaining said called address data from a public directory of said public network in response to a search for said B party using said selected party data; and
sending said called address data for said B party to a connection module of said public network for establishing a call between an A party and said B party.

47. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, 2, 6 or 7, wherein said public network includes a messaging network for connecting a plurality of said interactive device and at least one public telecommunications network for connecting said A and B parties.

48. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said messaging network provides said interactive device with a plurality of B party data.

49. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said messaging network accesses and forwards said called address data to said telecommunications network.

50. (Currently Amended) An interface of an interactive device for originating a communications call, including:

- a display controller for causing display of at least one B party;
- a selector for enabling a B party to be selected on said display; and
- a link which on being activated sends selected party data corresponding to said B party to a public network, whereby said public network accesses called address data of said B party in a public directory on the basis of said selected party data and forwards said called address data to connection module of said public network to establish a call with said B party.

51. (Currently Amended) An interface of an interactive device for originating a communications call, including:

- a search generator for generating a search for a B party using a public directory of said public network;
- a data receiver for receiving results of said search;
- a display controller for causing display of said results including at least one B party;
- a selector for enabling a B party to be selected on said display; and
- a link which on being activated sends selected party data corresponding to said B party to a public network, whereby said public network instructs a connection module of said public network to establish a call with said B party.

52. (Original) An interface as claimed in claim 12, wherein said results includes called address data for said B party data, and said selected party data includes said called address data.

53. (Original) An interface as claimed in claim 11, 12 or 13, wherein said interface is sent to said interactive device by said public network on request from said interactive device.

54. (Original) An interface as claimed in claim 14, wherein said public network includes a messaging network, for connecting a plurality of said interactive device, and at least one public telecommunications network for establishing said call.

55. (Original) An interface as claimed in claim 15, wherein said interface includes a hypertext page and/or an applet for establishing said link.

56. (Currently Amended) An interface stored on an interactive device connected to a public network, including:

code for generating a display on an interactive ~~said~~ device of B party data;
code allowing selection of a B party from said B party data; and
code for transmitting to said public network selected party data corresponding to the selected B party and A party data;

whereby said public network accesses called address data for said B party in a public directory on the basis of said selected party data and establishes a call between an A party and a B party using said A party data and said called address data.

57. (Currently Amended) An interface stored on an interactive device connected to a public network, including:

code for obtaining B party data from said public network;
code for generating a display on said device of B party data;
code allowing selection of a B party from said B party data; and
code for transmitting to said public network selected party data corresponding to the selected B party and A party data;

whereby said public network accesses called address data for said B party in a public directory on the basis of said selected party data and establishes a call between an A party and a B party using said A party data and said called address data.

58. (Original) An interface as claimed in claim 18, wherein said B party data includes called address data and said selected party data includes called address data for the selected B party.

59. (Original) An interface as claimed in claim 17 or 18, wherein said public network includes a TCP/IP messaging network and at least one public switched telephone network for establishing said call.

60. (Currently Amended) A system for use in establishing a communications call, including:

a public directory including called address data for parties connected to at least one public network;

an access module for transmitting said called address data for display on an interactive device, and for receiving selected party data from said interactive device; and

a controller for receiving said selected party data, including called address data for the selected party, and calling address data corresponding to an A party and generating, in response thereto, network control signals to cause said at least one public network to establish a call between said A party and said B party over said network.

61. (Currently Amended) A system for use in establishing a communications call, including:

a public directory database including called address data for parties connected to at least one public network;

(1) an access module for receiving on said at least one public network selected party data corresponding to a B party and accessing called address data on the basis of said selected party data from said directory database; and

a network controller for receiving said called address data and calling address data corresponding to an A party and generating, in response thereto, network control signals to cause said at least one public network to establish a call between said A party and said B party over said network.

62. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 21 or 22, wherein said network includes at least one public telecommunications network, such as a PSTN, for receiving said control signals and establishing said call, and a messaging network, such as the Internet, for passing data between the A party, the access module and the network controller.

63. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 22, wherein the access module includes directory data from said directory database for display by said A party.

64. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 21 or 22, including a search module accessible by said A party over said network for searching said directory database.

65. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 21 or 22, wherein said call is established with a terminal of the A party which selects said selected B party.

66. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 21 or 22, wherein said call is established with a terminal of the A party which is separate from the terminal selecting said B party.

67. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 21 or 22, wherein the address data includes a party terminal number and security information.

68. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 28, wherein at least one of the calling address data and the called address data includes account information.

69. (Currently Amended) A directory server for use in establishing a communications call on at least one public network, including:

a directory database module for accessing public directory data, including communications address data, of parties connected to at least one public network;

a call connection module for transmission to an interactive device of a user and for accessing, for said interactive device, directory data using said directory database module;

a call completion module for receiving selected party data for a B party of said call from said interactive device and transmitting a connect message to a communication module of said public network for establishing said call, said connect message including communications address data for said B party obtained using said directory database module.

70. (Currently Amended) A server for use in establishing a communications call on a public network, including:

a call connection module for transmission to an interactive device of a user and for transmitting a connection message from said interactive device;

a call completion module for receiving said connection message and forwarding a connect message to a communication module of a public network for establishing a call between A and B parties;

wherein said connection message includes data from a public directory identifying at least said B party and said connect message includes communications address data for said A and B parties.

71. (Original) A server as claimed in claim 31, including a directory database module for accessing directory data, including communications address data, of parties connected to at least said public network, wherein the communications address data of said connect message for at least said B party is obtained using said directory database module.

72. (Original) A server as claimed in claim 30 or 31, comprising a TCP/IP server connected to a TCP/IP network, such as the Internet, and wherein the public network is a telecommunications network, such as the PSTN.

73. (Currently Amended) A method of establishing a call between parties, including:

receiving a first message at a public directory service of a public network in response to selection of a displayed element on an interactive device connected to the public network, said first message including identification data;

generating a second message in response to said first message, said second message including communication addresses determined on the basis of said identification data; and

sending said second message to make calls to parties using said communication addresses to establish a call between the parties.

74. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 34, wherein the identification data is name data.

75. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 35, wherein the directory service is adapted to access a database of public communications addresses stored against respective identification data.

76. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 36, wherein selection of the displayed element invokes generation of code on the interactive device to generate and send the first message.

77. (Currently Amended) An interface of an interactive device connected to a public network, including:

a selectable displayed element which may be selected by a user of the device; and
code for generating and sending a first message in response to selection of said displayed element, to a public directory service of the public network, said first message including identification data,

wherein said directory service determines public communications addresses on the basis of said identification data, and sends a second message to make calls to parties using said communication addresses to establish a call between the parties.

78. (Original) An interface as claimed in claim 38, wherein the identification data represents a name.

79. (Currently Amended) A method of establishing a call, including:

receiving a call request from a client device over an IP link that connects the client device to the Internet, said call request including data identifying parties for said call;

utilizing a public directory to obtain data identifying terminal of at least one of said parties,

generating a connection message, in response to said call request, including data identifying terminals for said parties; and

establishing a call between said terminals in response to said connection message.

80. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 40, wherein said terminals include two telephones.

81. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 40, wherein said terminals include a telephone and said client device having a voice over IP application.

82. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 40, wherein said terminals include said client device and a further client device both having a voice over IP application.

83. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 40, wherein said call is established over a public network, such as the PSTN.

84. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 40, wherein said receiving and generating steps are executed by a server, such as a web server.

85. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 45, wherein said connection message is sent to network equipment that executes said establishing step.

86. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 40, wherein said call request is a HTTP request.

87. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 40, wherein said client device is a computer device, such as a computer, handheld device or telephony device with a visual display.

88. (Original) A network system having components for executing the steps of a method as claimed in claim 1, 2, 6, 7, 34 or 40.

89. (Original) Computer software having code for executing the steps of a method as claimed in claim 1, 2, 6, 7, 34 or 40.